

1
2
3
4
5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
7 AT TACOMA

8 WILL CO. LTD,

9 Plaintiff,

v.

10 KA YEUNG LEE, an individual,
11 YOUHAHA MARKETING AND
12 PROMOTION LIMITED, a foreign
company, and DOES 1-20, d/b/a
THISAV.COM

13 Defendants.

CASE NO. C20-5802 BHS

ORDER GRANTING
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
DISMISS FOR LACK OF
PERSONAL JURISDICTION

14
15 This matter comes before the Court on Defendants Ka Yeung Lee and Youhaha
16 Marketing and Promotion Limited's ("YMP") motion to dismiss for lack of personal
17 jurisdiction. Dkt. 18. The Court has considered the briefings filed in support of and in
18 opposition to the motion and the remainder of the file and hereby grants the motion for
19 the reasons stated herein.

20 **I. FACTUAL & PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

21 Plaintiff Will Co. Ltd is a Japan-based adult entertainment company that sells
22 access to its content in the United States. *See* Dkt. 9, ¶ 1. Its headquarters are in Tokyo,

1 Japan, but Will Co. alleges that it targets the United States market for the purposes of
2 selling paid memberships to access its content. *Id.* ¶¶ 6, 31. Will Co. has registered
3 copyrights for its videos and photographs with the United States Copyright Office, some
4 of which are the basis of this lawsuit. *Id.* ¶¶ 34–36.

5 Will Co. alleges that Defendants own and operate ThisAV.com and that
6 ThisAV.com is displaying Will Co.’s copyrighted content without authorization or
7 license. *Id.* ¶¶ 39, 46, 53. Will Co. specifically alleges that between June and July 2020 it
8 discovered that ThisAV.com displayed thirteen of its copyright registered works over
9 nineteen separate and distinct URLs. *Id.* ¶ 61. It alleges that it sent take down notices to
10 ThisAV.com pursuant to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”), 17 U.S.C.
11 § 512(c), and that receipt was acknowledged but none of Will Co.’s content was
12 removed. Dkt. 9, ¶¶ 62–63. Will Co. thus brings claims for copyright infringement and
13 inducement of copyright infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, *et seq.* *Id.* at 11–14.

14 When Will Co. first filed suit, it did not know the identities of all owners and
15 operators of ThisAV.com. *See* Dkt. 5 at 1; *see also* Dkt. 1 (first complaint naming only
16 Does 1–20 as Defendants). Will Co. therefore sought leave to conduct early discovery,
17 Dkt. 5, and the Court granted the motion, Dkt. 8. Through this early discovery, Will Co.
18 identified Defendants Lee and YMP as the owners and operators of ThisAV.com. *See*
19 Dkt. 10.

20 Defendant Lee is a director of YMP but does not own or operate ThisAV.com in
21 his personal capacity. Dkt. 18-1, Declaration of Ka Yeung Lee (“Lee Decl.”), ¶¶ 6–8. Lee
22 is a permanent resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s

1 Republic of China and currently lives and works in Canada (unrelated to his position as
2 director of YMP). *Id.* ¶¶ 3–4. He declares that the “allegedly infringing files referenced in
3 the Complaint in this matter are user generated content, that is, content that was uploaded
4 by users” to ThisAV.com and that he did not upload the allegedly infringing files. *Id.*
5 ¶¶ 18–19.

6 Defendant YMP is a limited company registered in Hong Kong and is the owner
7 and operator of ThisAV.com. Dkt. 18-1, Declaration of Janus Tam on behalf of Youhaha
8 Marketing and Promotion Ltd. (“YMP Decl.”), ¶¶ 1–2. YMP is operated exclusively out
9 of Hong Kong. *Id.* ¶ 3. Like Lee, YMP asserts that it does not create or upload any of the
10 videos of ThisAV.com and that all videos on ThisAV.com are uploaded by the website’s
11 users. *Id.* ¶ 4. YMP further asserts that it does not have any commercial relationships
12 with any of the users of ThisAV.com. *Id.* ¶ 9.

13 YMP states that, from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, approximately 4.6%
14 of the user traffic of ThisAV.com came from the United States. *Id.* ¶ 56; *see also* Dkt. 18-
15 3. ThisAV.com had nearly 1.3 million website visitors from the United States during this
16 time period. *See* Dkt. 18-3. The majority of users during the April through June 2020
17 timeframe—approximately 95.4%—were based in Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. YMP
18 Decl., ¶¶ 57–58; *see also* Dkt. 18-3. Further, YMP states that from March 1, 2020
19 through February 28, 2021 approximately 3.9% of the user traffic of ThisAV.com came
20 from the United States. YMP Decl., ¶ 59; *see also* Dkt. 18-4. ThisAV.com had
21 approximately 4.5 million visitors from the United States during this year-long period.
22

1 See Dkt. 18-4. Again, the vast majority of users from March 2020 through February 2021
2 were based in Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. YMP Decl., ¶ 59; *see also* Dkt. 18-4.

3 While YMP is based in Hong Kong and does not have a commercial relationship
4 with the users of ThisAV.com, it has some business connections to the United States.
5 ThisAV.com’s servers are hosted by Gorilla Servers, Inc., which is based in Ogden, Utah.
6 YMP Decl., ¶¶ 14–15. ThisAV.com also utilizes Cloudflare.com (“Cloudflare”), a United
7 States-based company, for domain name resolution services and DDoS (distributed denial
8 of services attack) protection. *Id.* ¶ 16. YMP asserts that Cloudflare does not provide
9 account management for ThisAV.com’s account. *Id.* ¶ 17. YMP additionally engaged
10 with GoDaddy.com, a U.S.-based company, to register a domain name, and with
11 Domains by Proxy, LLC, a U.S.-based company, for privacy services. *Id.* ¶¶ 34–36.

12 YMP also uses a website template and source code from the website
13 www.mediaxxxscript.com (“Mediaxxx”) to create the general layout of its website. *Id.*
14 ¶ 31. YMP avers that Mediaxxx shut down approximately two years ago and that it is
15 unsure of what company owned Mediaxxx or what country the company operated out of.
16 *Id.* YMP asserts that the “generic” website template provided by Mediaxxx for
17 ThisAV.com contained boilerplate language, including references to “DMCA” and
18 “2257.”¹ *Id.* ¶ 32.

21 ¹ As further discussed below, Will Co. asserts that these references are evidence of
22 ThisAV.com and Defendants’ promise to comply with the DMCA and with 18 U.S.C. § 2257.
See Dkt. 21 at 10.

1 The revenue from ThisAV.com comes from advertisements, and YMP states that
2 almost all of the site’s advertisements have come from YMP’s relationship with foreign
3 advertising brokers: Tiger Media, Inc. d/b/a JuicyAds, a Canadian corporation registered
4 in Saskatchewan (“JuicyAds”), Tomksoft S.A. d/b/a PopAds, a Costa Rican joint stock
5 company (“PopAds”), and ExoClick, S.L. d/b/a ExoClick, a Spanish company based in
6 Barcelona (“ExoClick”). *Id.* ¶¶ 40–41. YMP asserts that it does not cause any specific
7 advertisements to be directed to visitors from specific locations and that, to the extent that
8 advertisements are based on geolocation, it is done at the sole discretion of Juicy Ads,
9 PopAds, or ExoClick. *Id.* ¶¶ 43–47. In sum, YMP asserts that it is not advertising
10 ThisAV.com in the United States by virtue of these advertisements. *Id.* ¶ 48.

11 Defendants Lee and YMP thus moved to dismiss the Complaint for lack of
12 personal jurisdiction pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2) on March 11,
13 2021. Dkt. 18. On March 29, 2021, Will Co. responded, asserting that there is a
14 substantial connection between Defendants and the forum. Dkt. 21. On April 16, 2021,
15 Defendants replied. Dkt. 29.

16 II. DISCUSSION

17 A. Standard

18 To determine whether it has jurisdiction over a defendant, a federal court applies
19 the law of the state in which it sits, as long as that law is consistent with federal due
20 process. *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, 571 U.S. 117, 126 (2014). Washington grants courts the
21 maximum jurisdictional reach permitted by due process. *Easter v. Am. W. Fin.*, 381 F.3d
22 948, 960 (9th Cir. 2004). Due process is satisfied when subjecting the entity to the court’s

1 power does not “offend ‘traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.’”

2 *Helicopteros Nacionales de Colombia, S.A. v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408, 414 (1984) (quoting
3 *Int’l Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945)). “[T]raditional notions of fair
4 play and substantial justice” require that a defendant have minimum contacts with the
5 forum state before it may be haled into a court in that forum. *Int’l Shoe*, 326 U.S. at 316.
6 The extent of those contacts can result in either general or specific personal jurisdiction
7 over the defendant. *Goodyear Dunlop Tires Operations, S.A. v. Brown*, 564 U.S. 915, 919
8 (2011).

9 “Although the plaintiff cannot simply rest on the bare allegations of its complaint,
10 uncontroverted allegations in the complaint must be taken as true.” *Schwarzenegger v.*
11 *Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 374 F.3d 797, 800 (9th Cir. 2004) (internal quotation marks and
12 citations omitted). “Additionally, any evidentiary materials submitted on the motion are
13 construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiffs and all doubts are resolved in their
14 favor.” *Ochoa v. J.B. Martin & Sons Farms, Inc.*, 287 F.3d 1182, 1187 (9th Cir. 2002).

15 Personal jurisdiction may take the form of general jurisdiction² or specific
16 jurisdiction. *See Helicopteros Nacionales*, 466 U.S. at 414 n.9. General jurisdiction only
17 exists in the “exceptional case” in which the corporation’s activities are “so substantial
18 and of such a nature as to render the corporation at home in that State.” *Tyrrell*, 137 S. Ct.

19
20 ² General jurisdiction permits a court to consider claims against a person or corporation
21 for any conduct, even that which occurred outside the forum state. *Goodyear*, 564 U.S. at 924;
22 *Daimler*, 571 U.S. at 126–27. A court may assert general jurisdiction over a foreign corporation
when the corporation’s affiliations with the state “are so ‘continuous and systematic’ as to render
them essentially at home in the forum State.” *BNSF Ry. Co. v. Tyrrell*, 137 S. Ct. 1549, 1559
(2017) (quoting *Daimler*, 571 U.S. at 127).

1 at 1558. Will Co. does not assert that the Court has general jurisdiction over Defendants,
2 only specific jurisdiction. Dkt. 21 at 8 & n.3.

3 Specific jurisdiction permits a district court to exercise jurisdiction over a
4 nonresident defendant for conduct that “create[s] a substantial connection with the forum
5 State.” *Walden v. Fiore*, 571 U.S. 277, 284 (2014). To prove that specific jurisdiction
6 exists in a tort-based action, a plaintiff must demonstrate that: (1) a defendant
7 purposefully directed its activities at the forum state, (2) the lawsuit arises out of or
8 relates to the defendant’s forum-related activities, and (3) the exercise of jurisdiction is
9 reasonable. *Picot*, 780 F.3d at 1211. A defendant purposefully directs its conduct toward
10 a forum state when its actions are intended to have an effect within the state.
11 *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 803. This occurs if the defendant: “(1) commit[s] an
12 intentional act, (2) expressly aimed at the forum state, (3) causing harm that the defendant
13 knows is likely to be suffered in the forum state.” *Morrill v. Scott Fin. Co.*, 873 F.3d
14 1136, 1142 (9th Cir. 2017) (commonly referred to as the *Calder* effects test”); *see also*
15 *Calder v. Jones*, 465 U.S. 783 (1984).

16 If the plaintiff establishes the first two factors, the defendant “must present a
17 compelling case that the presence of some other considerations would render jurisdiction
18 unreasonable’ in order to defeat personal jurisdiction.” *Harris Rutsky & Co. Ins. Servs.*
19 *Inc. v. Bell & Clements Ltd.*, 328 F.3d 1122, 1132 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Burger King*
20 *v. Rudzewicz*, 471 U.S. 462, 477 (1985)). These considerations include the extent of the
21 defendant’s purposeful interjection into the forum, the burden on the defendant, conflict
22 of sovereignty with the defendant’s state, the forum state’s interest, judicial efficiency,

1 the importance of the forum to the plaintiff’s interest in convenient and effective relief,
2 and the alternate forums. *Picot*, 780 F.3d at 1211 (citing *Core-Vent v. Novel Indus. AB*,
3 11 F.3d 1482, 1487–88 (9th Cir. 1993)).

4 Defendants argue that Will Co. cannot establish that they engaged in purposeful
5 direction toward the forum state. The Court will thus first address the “effects test” and
6 then turn to the remaining specific jurisdiction arguments if required.

7 **B. Analysis**

8 **1. Purposeful Direction**

9 **a. Intentional Act**

10 For purposes of jurisdiction, a defendant acts intentionally when he acts with “an
11 intent to perform an actual, physical act in the real world, rather than an intent to
12 accomplish a result or consequence of that act.” *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 806.

13 Owning and operating a website is an intentional act for the purposes of specific
14 jurisdiction. *AMA Multimedia, LLC v. Wanat*, 970 F.3d 1201, 1209 (9th Cir. 2020).

15 Defendants concede that YMP’s operation of ThisAV.com is sufficient to meet the first
16 prong of the effects test but argue that Lee has not engaged in an intentional act. Dkt. 18
17 at 11–12. However, the Ninth Circuit concluded in *AMA Multimedia* that a partner of a
18 company that owned a website engaged in an intentional act. 970 F.3d at 1209. Lee, like
19 the defendant in *AMA Multimedia*, purchased and registered the domain name and
20 purchased proxy domain services for ThisAV.com. *Compare id. with* Lee Decl., ¶¶ 10–
21 11. Operating a passive website is an intentional act, and the Court concludes that both
22 YMP and Lee have engaged in an intentional act.

1 **b. Expressly Aimed at the Forum**

2 Will Co. argues that YMP and Lee have expressly aimed at the United States
3 through:

4 [the] express statements that ThisAV.com is available for viewing in the
5 United States, the clear invocation of United States laws (DMCA, 2257,
6 and intellectual property laws), the use of hosting servers and CDNs in the
7 United States, the use of United States specific geo-targeted ads which
8 generate Defendants revenue, registration of the domain names and privacy
9 services in the United States, and developing millions of United States
10 viewers[.]

11 Dkt. 21 at 19. Defendants argue that *AMA Multimedia*, in which the Ninth Circuit held
12 that personal jurisdiction was lacking over a defendant who ran a similar internationally-
13 based website, has nearly identical facts and is controlling here.

14 In *AMA Multimedia*, the Ninth Circuit addressed whether the court could exercise
15 personal jurisdiction over a foreign defendant who was running an adult-content website.
16 970 F.3d at 1204. The plaintiff—like Will Co.—produced and distributed adult
17 entertainment over the Internet and copyrighted several of its works. *Id.* The plaintiff
18 sued for copyright and trademark infringement, and the defendant moved to dismiss for
19 lack of personal jurisdiction. *Id.* In analyzing whether the defendant expressly aimed his
20 intentional act of operating a website, the Ninth Circuit considered the defendant’s
21 actions in establishing and maintaining the website, registering domains, and purchasing
22 domain name server (“DNS”) services. *Id.* at 1209.

23 Nearly 20% of the website traffic in *AMA Multimedia* came from the United
24 States, but the Ninth Circuit held that this did not establish that the defendant expressly
25 aimed its activities at the U.S. market. *Id.* at 1211. Furthermore, the Ninth Circuit was not

1 persuaded that the website’s use of geo-located advertisements provided by third-party
2 advertising companies established express aiming because the advertisements shown
3 were not in the control of the defendant and thus did not indicate that the defendant was
4 tailoring his website to attract U.S. traffic. *Id.*

5 The Ninth Circuit additionally did not hold that the use of a U.S.-based company
6 to register certain domain names evidenced targeting of the U.S. market. The plaintiff
7 argued that the use of a U.S.-based DNS services showed targeting of the United States
8 “because of the speed such companies provide to U.S. website visitors.” *Id.* at 1212. The
9 Ninth Circuit agreed that “[u]se of a company that offers fast speeds in the United States
10 could be consistent with the desire to appeal to the U.S. market” but absent evidence
11 showing that the defendant chose the particular vendor to appeal to the U.S. market, the
12 use of U.S.-based DNS services by itself was insufficient. *Id.*

13 Indeed, the Ninth Circuit recently clarified:

14 Our circuit has never decided that personal jurisdiction is proper over a
15 private foreign entity solely because that entity engaged in tortious conduct
16 from a location outside of the United States by remotely accessing servers
17 located in the United States. Likewise, no authority supports the proposition
that the act of using a third-party company’s server in the United States to
host illegally-obtained information, without more, is sufficient to convey
personal jurisdiction.

18 *Hungerstation LLC v. Fast Choice LLC*, __ F. App’x __, 2021 WL 1697886, at *2 (9th
19 Cir. 2021). In sum, a plaintiff must show that a defendant operated a website using U.S.-
20 based companies to do so “in conjunction with ‘something more[.]’” *See Marvix Photo,*
21 *Inc. v. Brand Techs., Inc.*, 647 F.3d 1218, 1229 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Rio Props., Inc.*
22 *v. Rio Int’l Interlink*, 284 F.3d 1007, 1020 (9th Cir. 2002)). The Ninth Circuit has

1 considered several factors in determining whether a nonresident defendant has done
2 “something more,” including: “the interactivity of the defendant’s website, . . . the
3 geographic scope of the defendant’s commercial ambitions, . . . and whether the
4 defendant ‘individually targeted’ a plaintiff known to be a forum resident” *Id.*
5 (internal citations omitted).

6 While Will Co. attempts to distinguish the facts here from the facts in *AMA*
7 *Multimedia*, the Court agrees with Defendants that the facts are strikingly similar.
8 Defendants’ “use of hosting servers and CDNs in the United States, the use of United
9 States specific geo-targeted ads which generate Defendants revenue, [and] registration of
10 the domain names and privacy services in the United States” do not evidence that
11 Defendants developed ThisAV.com to target the United States.

12 Without something more, Defendants’ use of servers based in the United States to
13 operate ThisAV.com does not establish that they expressly aimed at the forum. The same
14 can be said of Defendants’ use of Cloudflare—like in *AMA Multimedia*, Defendants use
15 the DNS and CDN service “to enhance the ThisAV website’s performance no matter
16 where a user . . . may be located.” Dkt. 18 at 20; *see also AMA Multimedia*, 970 F.3d at
17 1212 (“Use of a company that offers fast speeds in the United States could be consistent
18 with the desire to appeal to the U.S. market. But *AMA* has not provided evidence to
19 suggest that Wanat . . . was motivated by a desire to appeal to the U.S. market or generate
20 more U.S. users, as opposed to more users globally.”). And Defendants’ choice in using
21 third-party advertisers who use geo-located ads does not evidence express aiming
22

1 because Defendants are not the ones choosing which ads appear for U.S. users. *See AMA*
2 *Multimedia*, 970 F.3d at 1211.

3 Further, although the number of U.S.-based visitors to ThisAV.com is in the
4 millions annually, these visitors make up only a very small percentage of those who visit
5 the website. As Defendants note, the annual percentage of U.S.-based users
6 (approximately 4%) is significantly less than the percentage of U.S.-based users in *AMA*
7 *Multimedia* (nearly 20%). *See id.* Indeed, “the market for adult content is global.” *Id.* at
8 1210.

9 ThisAV.com’s “clear invocation of United States law” is a closer call, however.
10 *See* Dkt. 21 at 17–19. Will Co. argues that the explicit references to 18 U.S.C. § 2257 and
11 the DMCA indicate that Defendants intended to target and broadcast in the United States
12 and that they knew they would be subject to United States law. Defendants, on the other
13 hand, assert that the “passing reference” to the United States statutes exist because of the
14 “generic” website template provided by Mediavax for ThisAV.com. Dkt. 18 at 21. They
15 additionally note that Will Co.’s claims do not arise out of ThisAV.com’s terms of
16 service. Dkt. 29 at 7–9. This issue should be resolved in the favor of Will Co., *Ochoa*,
17 287 F.3d at 1187, but it is not clear that these actions are legally sufficient to be
18 “something more” for the purposes of express aiming.

19 Courts have held that a website’s terms of service involving United States law
20 does not always establish that there is targeting of the United States, but rather that it
21 suggests that the website might have U.S.-based traffic. *See AMA Multimedia*, 970 F.3d
22 at 1212; *Axiom Foods v. Acerchem International, Inc.*, 874 F.3d 1064, 1069–70 (9th Cir.

1 2017). It appears that the references to United States law and ThisAV.com’s statement
2 that the website is available in the United States is not necessarily an effort to target the
3 U.S. market, and it is more likely that these statements were included because Defendants
4 knew that ThisAV.com could have at least some U.S.-based traffic. *See AMA*
5 *Multimedia*, 970 F.3d at 1212. Further, Will Co. does not allege violations of § 2257, so
6 that statement cannot be a basis to conclude that Defendants expressly aimed their
7 intentional act at the forum.

8 Will Co. argues that Defendants’ action, when taken together, evidence that they
9 expressly aimed ThisAV.com at the forum. It is a close question whether these actions, in
10 the aggregate, show that Defendants engaged in conduct directly targeting the forum. *See*
11 *Marvix*, 647 F.3d at 1229 (internal citation omitted). But the Court concludes that Will
12 Co., which has the burden, has failed to meet its burden to establish express aiming.

13 **c. Harm in the Forum**

14 Assuming that Will Co. can establish that Defendants expressly aimed at the
15 forum, it would still need to show that Defendants caused jurisdictionally significant
16 harm for the purposes of purposeful direction. “[A] corporation can suffer economic
17 harm both where the bad acts occurred and where the corporation has its principal place
18 of business.” *Dole Food Co., Inc. v. Watts*, 303 F.3d 1104, 1113 (9th Cir. 2002).

19 Will Co.’s principal place of business is in Tokyo, Japan, but it argues that
20 Defendants’ bad acts are occurring in the United States. Dkt. 21 at 20–21. Defendants
21 note that Will Co.’s complaint does not allege that any visitors to ThisAV.com from the
22 United States actually viewed or downloaded the videos alleged to violate Will Co.’s

1 copyrights. Dkt 18 at 21. Will Co. again relies on the size of ThisAV.com’s U.S.-based
2 visitors to argue that Defendants’ alleged bad acts are occurring in the forum. Looking
3 solely at the number of visitors from the United States, it is arguable that Defendants are
4 causing harm within the United States. However, as discussed above, the number of
5 visitors does not tell the whole story—the nearly 1.3 million website visitors from the
6 United States only accounted for approximately 4.6% of the user traffic. YMP Decl.,
7 ¶ 56; *see also* Dkt. 18-3.

8 “The proper question is not where the plaintiff experienced a particular injury or
9 effect but whether the defendant’s conduct connects him to the forum in a meaningful
10 way.” *Walden v. Fiore*, 571 U.S. 277, 290 (2014). The brunt of the harm Will Co. is
11 suffering by ThisAV.com allegedly hosting its copyrighted material is not occurring in
12 the United States.³ *Cf. Calder*, 465 U.S. at 788–89. Moreover, committing a “foreign act
13 with foreseeable effects in the forum state” without something more is insufficient to
14 support personal jurisdiction in the Ninth Circuit. *Pebble Beach Co. v. Caddy*, 453 F.3d
15 1151, 1157–58 (9th Cir. 2009). Defendants’ actions are lacking “something more” than
16 just hosting the allegedly copyrighted material and are similar to the actions of the
17

18
19 ³ Will Co. cites Ninth Circuit case law for its argument that it is not required that the
20 brunt of the harm be suffered in the forum and that the harm in the forum element is satisfied
21 when a defendant’s intentional act has foreseeable effects. *See* Dkt. 21 at 20 (citing, *inter alia*,
22 *Fiore v. Walden*, 657 F.3d 838, 853 (9th Cir. 2011); *Brayton Purcell LLP v. Recordon &*
Recordon, 606 F.3d 1124, 1131 (9th Cir. 2010)). However, *Fiore* was reversed by the Supreme
Court, *see Walden v. Fiore*, 571 U.S. 277 (2014), and *Brayton Purcell*’s abrogation because of
the Supreme Court’s decision in *Walden* has been recognized by the Ninth Circuit, *see Axiom*
Foods, Inc. v. Acerchem Int’l, Inc., 874 F.3d 1064, 1069–70 (9th Cir. 2017).

1 defendant in *AMA Multimedia*. Will Co. has not met its burden and established that
2 Defendants caused harm within the forum.

3 In sum, the United States is not “the focal point” of the website “and of the harm
4 suffered.” *Walden*, 571 U.S. at 287 (quoting *Calder*, 465 U.S. at 789). Therefore, because
5 Will Co. has failed to establish purposeful direction, an essential element of specific
6 jurisdiction, *Morrill*, 873 F.3d at 1142, the Court will not address the remaining elements
7 of specific jurisdiction.

8 **C. Jurisdictional Discovery**

9 Will Co. requests that, if the Court concludes that it has failed to establish personal
10 jurisdiction over Defendants, it be allowed to conduct jurisdictional discovery. Dkt. 21 at
11 24–25. When a party requests discovery to respond to a motion to dismiss on
12 jurisdictional grounds, the court ordinarily should grant discovery “where pertinent facts
13 bearing on the question of jurisdiction are controverted or where a more satisfactory
14 showing of the facts is necessary.” *Laub v. U.S. Dep’t of the Interior*, 342 F.3d 1080,
15 1093 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Butcher’s Union Local No. 498 v. SDC Inv., Inc.*, 788 F.2d
16 535, 540 (9th Cir. 1986)) (discussing discovery in the context of standing). On the other
17 hand, “a refusal to grant discovery to establish jurisdiction is not an abuse of discretion
18 when ‘it is clear that further discovery would not demonstrate facts sufficient to
19 constitute a basis for jurisdiction.’” *Id.* (quoting *Wells Fargo & Co. v. Wells Fargo*
20 *Express Co.*, 556 F.2d 406, 430 n.24 (9th Cir. 1977)).

21 Will Co. argues that additional “jurisdictional discovery will establish the precise
22 extent ThisAV.com is intentionally targeted to United States viewers, including internal

1 memorandum and correspondence regarding the United States market, contracts with
2 United States vendors, monies earned through United States advertisers, communications
3 with United States based vendors, and communications and agreements with advertiser
4 brokers,” all of which “may evidence Defendants[’] bias to the United States Market.”
5 Dkt. 21 at 25. Defendants oppose Will Co.’s request for jurisdictional discovery. Dkt. 29
6 at 9–11. They note that Will Co. already sought leave to conduct early discovery, Dkt. 5,
7 and that the Court granted Will Co.’s motion, Dkt. 8. They further argue that Will Co. has
8 failed to articulate what specific discovery it would like to take and has failed to explain
9 how such discovery would lead to facts upon which personal jurisdiction could be based.
10 Dkt. 29 at 11.

11 However, Will Co. seeks additional jurisdictional discovery to establish that
12 Defendants expressly aimed at the forum. But the Court has concluded that the United
13 States is not the focal point of the harm suffered. The additional discovery requested does
14 not address the alleged harm in the forum. Absent such harm, Will Co. has not
15 established that Defendants engaged in purposeful direction sufficient to establish
16 personal jurisdiction. Will Co.’s jurisdictional discovery request is therefore DENIED,
17 and Defendants’ motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction is GRANTED.

18 **D. Remaining Defendants**

19 After conducting early discovery, Will Co. amended its complaint and named Lee
20 and YMP as Defendants, but kept Does 1–20 as Defendants as well. *See* Dkt. 9. It is
21 unclear whether Will Co. intends to name additional defendants in this case or if it only
22 intended to name Lee and YMP as the owners and operators of ThisAV.com. The Court

1 therefore requests Will Co. to submit a status report informing the Court whether it
2 intends to name additional defendants or whether this case can be closed as Defendants
3 Lee and YMP have been dismissed.

4 **III. ORDER**

5 Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that Defendants Lee and YMP's motion to
6 dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, Dkt. 18, is **GRANTED**. The Clerk shall
7 terminate Defendants Lee and YMP as parties to this case.

8 It is further **ORDERED** that Plaintiff Will Co. shall submit a status report
9 regarding the remaining Doe Defendants no later than **July 16, 2021**.

10 Dated this 30th day of June, 2021.

11
12 
13

BENJAMIN H. SETTLE
United States District Judge